

Kingham, Dec 12, '41.

Dear Caroline,

I have just returned from church & having a quiet hour at my disposal, I will devote it to you. I have a quiet hour & a quiet heart, although this little village seems in wonderful commotion, or that part of it, which belongs to our religious society. For the last week or two, one could hardly go out, without encountering little knots of men at the corners of the streets, and at the shops & offices, eagerly gesticulating, & the ominous sound of Abolition, Transcendentalism, Church, Sabbath, &c. &c. would occasionally come to the ears of the distant observer. Women are running to & fro, with grave but earnest looks, to exchange words of sympathy, & to hear the last development of the individual opinion of men whom they despise perhaps, but who have power to vote. And all this the Anti-Slavery Convention held here has brought out. Our Parish is going through another crisis. Mr. Stearns, by praying earnestly for the slave, has sent two men out of church during that exercise, and a number more do not come to meetings on account of his Abolition sermons. Our Minister was thoroughly roused by the meeting here, (although he was not asleep before) & he has let the people know it, although in such a calm, judicious, way that one would think that none but the most prejudiced and ill-tempered could take offence. But the disaffected have gone so far as to call a Parish meeting, which is to be held tomorrow, with what result I cannot of course tell. Some who are not sufficiently alarmed by Mr. Stearns's abolition views to take part against him, are wrought upon by having his views of the Sabbath of the church & the bible presented to them in a false

light. I care not what is done if Mr. Stearns does not go away, and I believe he will do it. If we must have a seeting I am ready for it, & I believe our Pastor is, for I believe he is about sick of preaching to people who only require that their prejudices should be gratified.

But I will leave our own matters & go to the Fair. I have not seen any notice of the place in which it is to be held. I hope you are not troubled to get suitable accommodations. I intend to go up with the things that are preparing here. I am afraid I shall not have a valuable table. But I will try to make the best of it. Abolition, I think, is beginning to look up a little, but the people are too much engaged now, in the contest here to think much of the Fair. But I hope the Anti Slavery treasury will be filled all the more freely by & by, for what is going on now.

Our News-paper seems quite altered in its character. Abolition has been freely introduced and there is a discussion now begun between Mr. Richardson, the say and Mr. Gay, which I hope will continue for the present. I observed by our paper that you are to have a Fair in Weymouth next week. I wish some of our people would have energy enough to go over. I would go if I did not intend to go to Boston, & I have my hands full to get ready to leave home, & get my contribution for the Fair ready. Miss Thaxter & Miss Beal, or Anna & Louisa, as that sounds better, have been knitting with all earnestness, as that is all they can do, as if they intended to cover my table with stockings. Mr. Lincoln is making balls for the boys, & so industrious is he at the business, that he takes his work with him when he goes out for the evening. Maria is working muslin, the little A. S. S. meet often and are very industrious so you see all hands are at work and tongues are not idle.

I hoped to have seen you during Thackeray's
week. I supposed you were in Weymouth & we all intend-
ed to go over; but I was sick, and Mr Smith and Maria did
not like to go without me, so we lost the pleasure.

Do you attend Mr Emerson's lectures this season, I have
nothing about them, except a few words from Hannah
Thurckley, who with her mother is staying in Boston,
this winter. They went from here three or four weeks
ago quite strong abolitionists. I don't know how
they will return after spending a winter in Mr.
Hunt's family. They gave very generously to Sam-
ford Lane, when he was here, although I have not
heard yet of their doing any thing for and with the ab-
olitionists. The people are very mad here with Douglas
and Lane. With Douglas's impudence, as they call it,
and with the attentions that Lane received from the
~~city~~ inhabitants. I think they both gave great inter-
est to the meeting here. Douglas has great talent.
I think some parts of his speeches were very fine,
particularly where he described the churches of
the South. And Lane, one could not look upon
that noble figure without being impressed with the
dignity of the man, and wondering anew, how such
a man could ever be bought and sold. Maria had
the honor of being clapped as she passed over Broad
bridge with him. I suppose Caroline you have a
thousand & one things to do now, that you have as
much as two heads & two pairs of hands ought to do, but
to whom much is given, much is required. I hope you
will begin your labors Christmas week with a sound
mind in a sound body. I hope you will not forget to
tell us in the next paper, where and when the Fair is to
open. Maria sends her love to you and says we are
going through such an excitement as you would

I hope to have like now. Mr Smith sends his re-
gards to you & I

Remain your sincere friend
Evelina A. S. Smith.

Miss Caroline Weston

Roxbury

Ms. A. 9. 2. 15. 109



E. A. S. Smith

Courage,
friends of the
slave! Be not want-
ing to yourselves, and God
will not be want-
ing to
you.

Ms. A. 9. 2. 15. 109